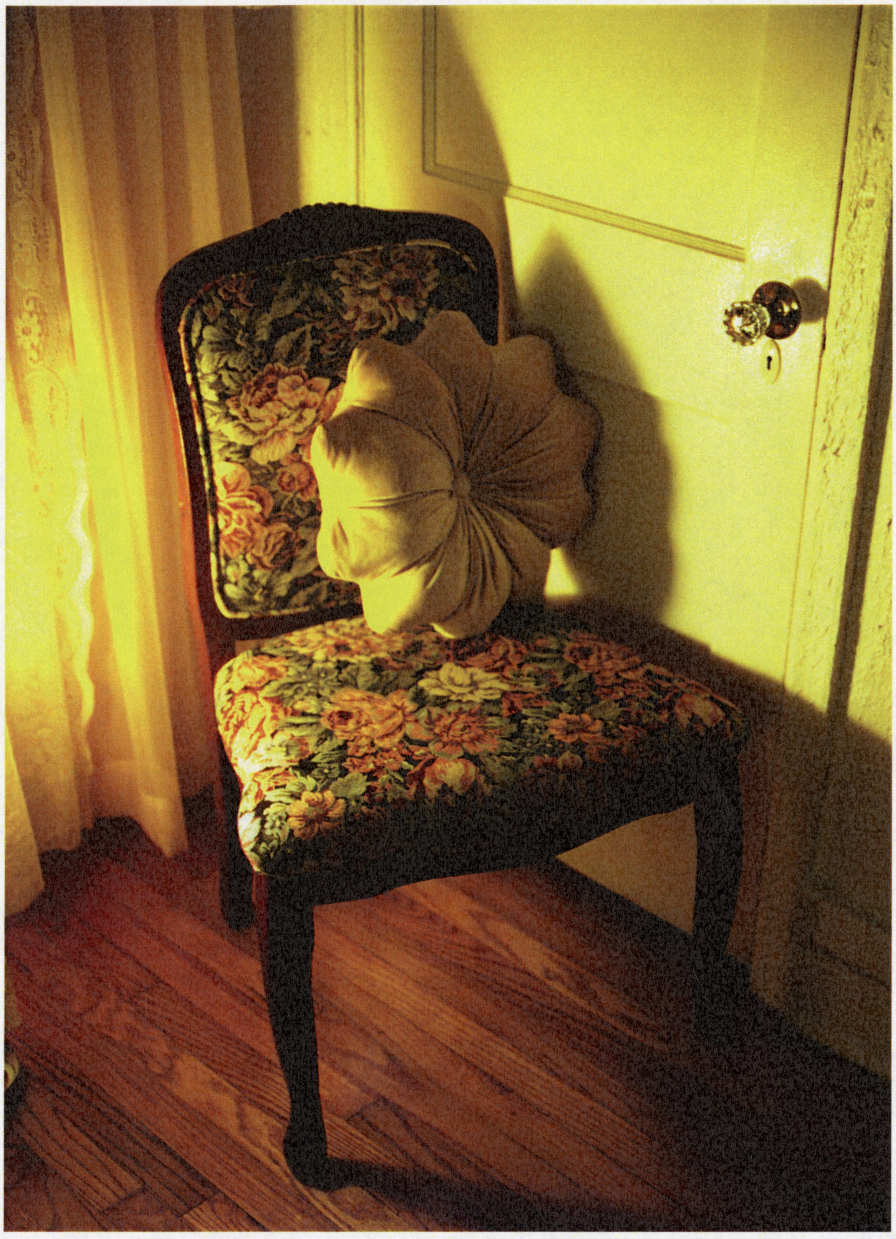

A RABBIT WITH A GUN

by LAWRENCE MATTHEWS

WEST GALLERY
03 / 13 / 26 – 06 / 07 / 26

CROSSTOWN ARTS

ARTIST STATEMENT

From 2022 to 2024 I spent a lot of time absorbing media about altered reality perception.

I think I developed the interest as an answer for why most times this feels off. Like there is something uncanny about existence. My reality. Space is constructed in odd ways. People are confusing. Time moves in ways which it shouldn't. Months zoom past in hours. In each day there is a level of repetition that blends into itself like *The Truman Show*.

Whenever I take the left instead of the right it's like going down the wrong hall in a hospital or office building. The constructed environment around me didn't plan for me to use my free will at that moment. This road, this hallway, these shadows aren't rendered as they should be. It feels just uncomfortable enough for me to turn around and go back to my normal routine.

The last few years I've been pushing my limits there. Going further and further into spaces off the path. In the world, in my past and in my own head, which might very likely all be the same place. And if that's the case then this reality is completely mine to shape as I chose, Right? My thoughts shape my perception of life and therefore life itself. What if I just chose to do whatever I wanted and for the environment to shape itself to my desires and not my fears? I wonder what would happen? This work is as close as I could get to sharing those moments.

To purchase a piece in the exhibition please contact Stacy Wright at stacy@crosstownarts.org.

100% of all proceeds go to the artist.

ARTIST BIO

— Born and raised in a lower middle class neighborhood fixed between the Mississippi border, the Memphis City Limits and the well off suburban Germantown and Collierville; Lawrence Matthews' early life was lived in places, ignored, forgotten and in the liminal interiors of southern family homes and spaces. His life and work exist as an extension of the southern gothic voices with whom he is aligned. He emerges as somewhat of a Morrisonian beloved ghost, a child who desired more. Now, fully grown as a manifestation of his environment's love and bitterness intertwined.

With a BFA from The University of Memphis and a decade long career exhibiting, performing and working with various arts nonprofits, his work in nearly every area of the arts is an amalgamation of his whole life.

Visually inspired by Parks, Eggleston, and the regionalistic mythology of Paul Thomas Anderson and early Spike Lee; Matthews' own visuals weave African spirituality with the Christian mythology that permeates the region. While working as a musician he'd create with the rap, soul and alternative rock references he'd come in contact with through his upbringing. His artistic practice highlights the deep relationship between the often maligned spiritual connections Black people have explored for generations, creating a hauntingly familiar but surreal experience.

1 *Self Portrait (If I never walked away from them)* 2020
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
11 x 17

2 *Untitled (Sitting Room)* 2025
Medium Format, Fine Art Giclee Print
40 x 60

3 *Untitled (Prescott)* 2025
Medium Format, Fine Art Giclee Print
16 x 24

4 *Untitled (Mississippi Delta)* 2024
Medium Format, Fine Art Giclee Print
40 x 60

5 *Geneva's Kitchen* 2025
Medium Format, Fine Art Giclee Print
16 x 24

6 *Untitled (Self Portrait in Rochelle's Room)* 2023
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
40 x 60

7 *Remember Me by Diana Ross* 2025
Audio & Visual Installation

8 *208* 2024
Medium Format, Fine Art Giclee Print
30 x 40

9 *Pure Imagination* 2025
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
24 x 36

10 *A Loss of Innocence* 2024
Medium Format, Fine Art Giclee Print
40 x 60

11 *Chicago Wind* 2024
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
24 x 36

12 *Tallahatchee II* 2023
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
16 x 24

13 *Tallahatchee* 2023
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
16 x 24

14 *Untitled (At Prescott)* 2023
Medium Format, Fine Art Giclee Print
36 x 48

15 *Untitled (Pilgrim Baptist)* 2024
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
40 x 60

16 *Those who respect the land (can hear it)* 2024
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
16 x 24

17 *Untitled (Couple After Service)* 2024
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
40 x 60

18 *3 Little Girls* 2018
35mm, Fine Art Giclee Print
36 x 48

19 *A Gift from God* 2025
Medium Format, Fine Art Giclee Print
36 x 24

All Images Sold in limited editions of 3.
Framing & UV Glass Included in Price.
16 x 24 for $2,500
24 x 36 for $4,500
36 x 48 for $5,500
40 x 60 for $6,500

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